



OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY COUNCIL

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**WELD COUNTY COUNCIL
2019 – 3rd Quarter
REPORT TO THE PEOPLE**

The Weld County Council is mandated in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Weld County, Colorado, to report to the people of Weld County on a quarterly basis, those matters related to the council's review of Weld County government. This report summarizes the activities of the Weld County Council during the third quarter of the calendar year 2019.

July 15, 2019

Jay McDonald, Director of Public Works

Mr. McDonald gave an overview of his vast department. They have six operations divisions; an engineering division; and an administration division; and he has two deputy directors.

When fully staffed, the department employs 261 workers. They maintain 744 miles of paved roads, 2,189 miles of gravel roads and 448 bridges. Their budget is \$71.6 million.

Whenever a road needs to be reconstructed and improved it's handled by the road and bridge construction team. They've spent more than 10 years perfecting the process now used to build the foundation on which we build an asphalt road. They also repair, maintain and replace bridges. They recently completed reconstruction on the last load-restricting bridge within the county road system. It was part of a 30-year project.

The trucking division transports a half-million tons of surface items per year including surface gravel and asphalt, etc. The Mining Division planning committee has its own crushing plant that produces gravel.

In 2018, the Maintenance Support Division replaced they maintained, replaced or installed more than 15,000 signs. They also re-stripe every mile of every road each year as a safety precaution. The Weed Division takes care of roadside spraying and mowing.

The engineering department is very diverse. They provide engineering services for capital improvement projects; materials testing; review of development of infrastructure; work with contractors and permitting; and work closely with the operations division.

The administrative division processes new employees and those leaving; manage citizen complaints and other requests; and innumerable other tasks.

The Public Works Department strives to ensure a safe, efficient and cost-effective transportation infrastructure to the general public. At any one time they have dozens of projects ongoing over 4,000 square miles of Weld County.

August 19, 2019

John Lefebvre, County Treasurer

John Lefebvre, County Treasurer, gave an overview of his department. The statutory duties of the treasurer's office include: 1) collecting all property taxes in the county; 2) distributing funds to underlying tax authorities; 3) investing the county's funds; and 4) the treasurer acts a permanent member of the retirement board.

This year, the treasurer's office will collect about \$832 million in property taxes. Oil and gas represent 58 percent of property taxes directly. Indirectly, that number is much higher.

The top three property tax recipients are schools, the county and fire districts. The treasurer currently manages more than \$360 million in investment funds.

Additional functions include managing the administrative portion of the Bright Futures program; performing the administrative functions for the retirement plan and chairing the legislative committee for the Colorado County Treasurer's Association.

September 16, 2019

Dr. Mark Wallace, Director of Public Health and Environment

Dr. Mark Wallace has served as director since 2000. The office of public health and environment is part of county government. Colorado has 53 local health departments and Weld County's is one of seven that is nationally accredited.

One item of national concern right now is the vaping epidemic. Dr. Wallace said Colorado has the highest rate of adolescents vaping anywhere in the world. Vaping might be presented as safe, but that's not always true.

He said his department can't do their work without partnerships. They spend a lot of time developing and sustaining partnerships.

The Health Department's structure includes Administrative Services; Community Health Services; Environmental Health Services; Health Education; Communication and Planning – Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness; and Public Health Services.

He said Colorado is in the midst of a hepatitis A outbreak right now, though it's not in Weld County yet. His department elected to take a preventive approach, providing vaccines to volatile populations, including those who are incarcerated and homeless.

He said the goal is to administer 500 vaccines to our vulnerable population.

His department is also responsible for issuing birth and death certificates.

Environmental Health Services is the department that checks restaurants for quality. Heating up and cooling down food products is an important aspect of that. That department also works with tattoo parlors to ensure public safety. Another area monitors the mosquito population and puts out public notices about West Nile or other potential diseases.

The laboratory does a lot of testing to make sure water sources are not contaminated. They contract with municipalities to test their water sources as well.

Another aspect of the department includes health education, communication and planning. They work with youth to educate them about unhealthy behaviors. Dr. Wallace said a lot of those addicted to cigarettes started under age 18, even though it's illegal.

His department acts as first responders in many situations. After the anthrax scare with 9/11 his department got more involved in massive communicable disease outbreaks. For instance, Ebola in Africa could be a plane ride away from coming into the United States. They work on preparedness, readying vaccines, etc.

Councilmember Teksten asked about the department's dashboard on the county web site. It can be found at https://www.weldgov.com/departments/health_and_environment.

Dr. Wallace said the dashboard is one of the ways in which they try to be transparent. He also discussed vaccination rates and how Colorado has been struggling with rates going down.

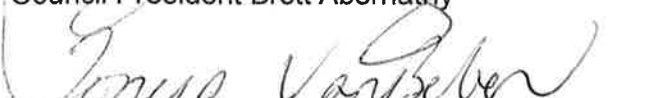
Whistleblower Discussion

Councilmembers continued discussion about enacting some type of whistleblower program for constituents and employees. Their research continues.


WELD COUNTY COUNCIL



Council President Brett Abernathy



Council Vice-President Tonya L. Van Beber



Councilmember Nancy Teksten



Councilmember Gene Stille



Councilmember James Welch

Date Signed: November 18, 2019